SRP E-BULLETIN

The Safer **Rotherham**
PARTNERSHIP

Campaign tackles hate

In Rotherham we're keen to tackle hate in our communities, and as a front line worker it's likely that you'll see or hear about hate incidents or harassment and can help us to encourage reporting. This bulletin will tell you more about hate crime and incidents and let you know what to do if you see or hear anything hate-related.

What is a hate crime or hate incident?

A hate incident is any incident motivated by prejudice or hostility towards a person's disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or transgender identity. If an incident is also a criminal offence, it is known as a hate crime. Hate incidents are extremely damaging to the victim and wider community.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales found that victims of hate crime were more likely to report being affected by what happened rather than victims of all crime. For example, 36% of hate crime victims said they were 'very much' affected compared with 13% for all crime. Hate makes people feel isolated, fearful and suspicious of their neighbours and people around them and it damages community cohesion.

National campaign

The Home Office public awareness campaign lets people know what hate is and encourages them to report it. Many people know a hate crime can be about race but may think it is just about physical violence, so we need to work together to make sure people understand the extent of hate crimes.

There are many types of offences which people, including victims, don't recognise as criminal. This includes online abuse, or abuse or harassment of a person because of their disability, race, religion, sexual orientation and transgender identity.

IT'S NOT JUST OFFENSIVE. IT'S AN OFFENCE.

HM Government

Find out more

South Yorkshire Police have some useful hate crime advice at www.southyorks.police.uk/find-out/crime-prevention-advice/hate-crime/

You can find out about the Home Office campaign at: https://hatecrime.campaign.gov.uk/

How to report hate

Please be aware of hate incidents and hate crime and report anything you know isn't right. Find out about your organisation's hate incident reporting procedure and use it.

We want communities to be confident to report hate, so please encourage anyone who has witnessed or been subject to hate to report it to the Police immediately. Phone 999 in an emergency or 101 for non-emergencies, or report it online at www.reportingcrime.uk/SYPincidentreport/ .

If the person does not want to make a formal Police report, you can send anonymous details of hate incidents you are told about in Rotherham to the Council community safety team at community.safety@rotherham.gov.uk . This will help us monitor for emerging problems so that partner agencies can work together to prevent hate escalating.

Community reporting centres are also available to help people to report hate if they don't feel confident going to the Police directly. A list of community reporting centres is on the Police website www.southyorks.police.uk/find-out/crime-prevention-advice/hate-crime/